

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network in which digital content is downloaded, comprising the steps of:

receiving through a network information designating a desired digital content selected by a consumer and a desired digital content transmission condition related to quality of communication selected by the consumer, at a digital content retailer possessing the desired digital content;

~~requesting, with~~ sending a request from the digital content retailer, for a reservation for the network managed by a network operator according to the desired digital content transmission condition sent from the consumer;

providing from the digital content retailer the desired digital content designated by the information, to the consumer through the network reserved by the digital content retailer at the desired digital content transmission condition sent from the consumer;

collecting from the consumer, ~~with~~ by the digital content retailer, a charge for the desired digital content, the charge including a transmission charge corresponding to the desired digital content transmission condition; and

paying, ~~with~~ by the digital content retailer, the transmission charge to the network operator.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer includes a transmission time condition.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the network is composed of a plurality of networks managed by a plurality of network operators, and the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer corresponds to a communication quality of each of the networks.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 3, wherein the communication quality of each network is determined by at least one of a data transfer rate, a delay time, a delay variation, a burst size, a cell interval and a cell discard rate.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 3, wherein a bandwidth of the network is reserved with a time condition in the network reservation according to the desired digital content transmission condition.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content transmission condition selected by the consumer is a bandwidth guarantee type transmission condition, in which a transmission time period is guaranteed, or a bandwidth no-guarantee type transmission ~~conditions~~ condition, in which a transmission time period is not guaranteed, and the transmission charge is heightened as the transmission time period is shortened.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

checking, ~~with~~ by the digital content retailer, through the network whether or not the consumer is capable of receiving the desired digital content, before the desired digital content is provided to the consumer at the desired digital content transmission condition.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

connecting the consumer to the network through a subscriber line which is composed of a telephone line, an optical fiber cable, a coaxial cable or a radio transmission line.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, further comprising:

sending, from the digital content retailer, a transmission start notice to the consumer before providing the desired digital content;

managing, ~~with~~ by a network operator, a transmission time period in the transmission of the desired digital content until the digital content retailer sends a transmission completion notice to the network operator;

sending, from the network operator, a time-out notice to the digital content retailer in cases where the transmission time period exceeds a prescribed value; and

forcibly terminating, ~~with~~ by the digital content retailer, the providing of the desired digital content in cases where the digital content retailer receives the time-out notice from the network operator.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

ciphering, ~~with~~ by the digital content retailer, the desired digital content; and  
providing from the digital content retailer, ciphered data of the desired digital content.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the information and the desired digital content transmission condition includes:

receiving from the consumer personal information and payment information of the consumer, at the digital content retailer;

making an inquiry to a credit company whether or not the personal information and the payment information received from the consumer is correct;

requesting that the credit company perform the authentication of the consumer according to the personal information and the payment information; and

requesting the credit company to send an authentication notice to the digital content retailer in cases where the personal information and the payment information is correct.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of collecting a charge for the desired digital content includes:

sending, from the digital content retailer, an accounting notice corresponding to the charge for the desired digital content to a credit company;

requesting that the credit company send a bill, which corresponds to the charge for the desired digital content, to the consumer in response to the accounting notice[[:]];

requesting that the consumer pay the charge for the desired digital content to the credit company in response to the bill; and

requesting that the credit company pay the charge paid by the consumer, to the digital content retailer.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the desired digital content includes:

receiving, at the digital content retailer, a reception impossible notice from the consumer indicating that the consumer has not received the desired digital content;

sending a transmission termination notice to the network operator from the digital content retailer; and

sending a transmission no-completion notice to the consumer from the digital content retailer.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A digital content downloading method using a network, according to claim 1, wherein the desired digital content is a music file, a video file or a game software title.

Claims 15 -28 (Canceled).